

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 2, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 21, 24, 33, and 37 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 22, 23, 35, and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Claims 21, 24-34, and 37-42 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 21, 22, 27-29, 31, 33-35, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dupray (WO 9810307) in view of Snyder (U.S. Patent No. 6,201,497). Claims 23, 24, 36, and 37, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21, 22, 27-29, 31, 33-35, and 41 are now in condition for allowance for at least the following reasons.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 22 and 23. As mentioned above, the Office Action indicated that claim 23 is allowable. As such, Applicants submit that claim 21 is now in condition for allowance. Similarly, claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 35 and 36. As discussed above,

claim 36 was indicated, in the Office Action, as being allowable. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 33 is also in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, claims 27-29, 31, 34, and 41 are dependent upon claims 21 and 33, respectively. Consequently, claims 27-29, 31, 34, and 41 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 21 and 33, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 25, 26, 38, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dupray in view of Snyder and further in view of Havinis (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,266). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25, 26, 38, and 39 are in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Claims 25, 26, 38, and 39 are dependent upon claims 21 and 33, respectively. As such, claims 25, 26, 38, and 39 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 21 and 33, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 30 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dupray in view of Snyder and further in view of Kangas (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,763). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30 and 40 are in condition for allowance for the reasons which follow.

Claims 30 and 40 are dependent upon claims 21 and 33, respectively. As such, claims 30 and 40 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 21 and 33, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 32 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dupray in view of Snyder and further in view of what was well known in the art.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32 and 42 are in condition for allowance for at least the following reasons.

Applicants note that claims 32 and 42 are dependent upon claims 21 and 33, respectively. Therefore, claims 32 and 42 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 21 and 33, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons discussed above, all of currently pending claims 21, 24-34, and 37-42 are in condition for allowance. . It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 21, 24-34, and 37-42 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Majid S. AlBassam
Registration No. 54,749

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

MSA:jf